WOMEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN WINS FIRST ROUND OF HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT

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The UConn Huskies take on Maine during the Hockey East Championship quarterfinals at Toscano Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn., on Saturday, Feb. 28. The Huskies crushed Maine with a 6-1 win.
PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The UConn women's hockey team (25-8-2, 17-6-1) took down No. 24 University of Maine (13-19-4, 8-12-4) in the first round of the Hockey East tournament Saturday, 6-1, to advance to the semifinals.

The Huskies got the scoring going late in the first period when senior forward Christina Walker sent a slapshot the way of Black Bears goalie Kiia Lahtinen. Ricocheting off her leg pads, Lahtinen fumbled with the puck for a few seconds before it inched past the line for the first score of the day with 4:47 to go in the first. Junior forward Livvy Dewar got the assist.

It was a tough day for Lahtinen, who, despite making 47 saves for the second most of her season, let in all six of UConn's scores.

The same can't be said for Huskies keeper Tia Chan. The graduate student, who was named Hockey East Goaltender of the Year on Friday for the second straight season, continued her phenomenal season with 20 saves.

After that first score, the floodgates opened as the Huskies scored again just over 100 seconds later. Sophomore forward Claire Murdoch corralled a pass from junior defender Julia Stephen that bounced off the barrier, before sending it from behind the goal towards senior captain Kyla Josifovic. Josifovic tapped it in for the easy score to make it 2-0 with 2:56 left in the first.

The score was the first postseason goal of Josifovic's four-year career.

The Huskies kept it going in the second, scoring early on a power player when junior forward Ashley Allard and Murdoch formed a passing triangle with Dewar. Dewar, who ended up with the puck, sent it to the far side of the goal with 18:38 to go for a 3-0 lead.

UConn is ranked 19th nationally in power play goals this season with 22.

They extended their lead even further a few minutes later. Down a player after cross check call on junior forward Martha Mobarak, fellow junior forward Julia Pellerin took it all the way from the blue line of the Huskies' defensive end for the first shorthanded goal of the season for UConn with 16:35 to play in the second.

The Huskies went quiet for the remainder of the second but weren't done yet. Murdoch made sure of that when she received a pass from Allard inside the right face-off circle and deposited it in the top left corner for the 5-0 lead with 13:24 left in the third.

UConn scored one last goal with a little under 12 minutes to go in the game when Pellerin found senior forward Megan Woodworth gliding down the middle of the ice. Woodworth dumped it in from close range to give the Huskies their sixth score of the day.

With the game far out of reach, the Black Bears finally got one back on a power play late in the third thanks to a trio of freshmen. Defender Lulu Rucinski sent a pass behind the goal to forward Mackenzie Podewell, who dunked a backhand pass into a swarm of skaters in front of the UConn goal. Forward Isabelle Michaud was the first to it, who slapped it in as she fell to the ground to score the loan goal for Maine. That was it, as the Huskies easily took care of business and finished with the five-goal victory.

On Friday, the Hockey East announced all-star teams for the regular season. In addition to being named Goaltender of the Year, Chan was also named to the All-Hockey East First Team. Pellerin, Murdoch and junior defender Maya Serdachny were all named to the second team, while Josifovic was selected to the third team.

Next up, UConn will return to the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Tuesday for the Hockey East semifinals against No. 16 Holy Cross (19-12-3, 10-11-3). The Crusaders staved off a late comeback attempt from the University of New Hampshire to win their semifinals matchup 5-4 and advance. Puck drop is scheduled for 6 p.m.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: UCONN FALLS IN A TWO-GAME SERIES TO UMASS

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The No. 13 UConn men's hockey team (17-10-5, 11-8-3) fell to the No. 19 UMass Minutemen (19-12-1, 12-9-1) in a two-game series over the weekend.

Before kicking off the squad's first game at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Friday, the team honored six players during Senior Night. However, the Minutemen came prepared and spoiled the Huskies' celebration, beating them 5-1.

Almost four and a half minutes into the opening period, Owen Murray scored the first points of the clash for Massachusetts. Owen Mehlenbacher dished the puck out to Murray, who sniped it into the back of the net for long range.

To keep the match deadlocked, Connecticut capitalized on a two-minute roughing penalty committed by Justin Kerr.

During the Huskies' power play, Trey Scott connected with Jake Percival, who hit a slap shot past the goaltender.

In response, UMass pressured UConn keeper Tyler Muszelik. With slightly under 14 minutes remaining in the second period, Coleson Hanrahan tried punching the puck in, but got denied.

After the puck deflected to the side of Muszelik, Bo Cosman found an opening and buried the puck in the net, giving UMass a 2-1 lead.

Heading into the third period, self-inflicted struggles hurt Connecticut's chances of claiming the lead.

Not to mention, the squad faced challenges netting the puck as they botched all 12 of their third-period shots.

With just under six minutes left in the match, Hanrahan committed a charge, providing the Huskies a two-minute power play.

Despite UConn's advantage of having an extra man on the ice, the Minutemen still executed and notched their third goal of the contest.

While shorthanded, Jack Musa passed to Francesco Dell'Elce in front of the net and fired the puck to light the lamp.

Three minutes later, Mike Murtagh conceded a two-minute power play for boarding. This resulted in Daniel Jenčko extending UMass's margin 4-1.

With the help of another power play, Václav Nestrašil banked the final goal of the outing, sealing the victory for the Minutemen.

Unlike Game 1, Connecticut bounced back on the road but fell short 2-1 in a seven-round shootout after UMass tied the matchup at three apiece.

With 17 minutes remaining in the battle, fans witnessed back-to-back goals. UConn started the scoring as Percival circled the net and launched it into a UMass player's skate, causing it to tip in.



UConn men's ice hockey take on the Boston College at People's Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn., on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026. The Huskies played a strong game that extended into overtime, but Boston College scored the deciding goal to secure a 2–1 victory. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Less than 30 seconds later, Musa secured the equalizer for the Minutemen. With both programs applying heavy defensive pressure, neither team could gain the edge in either regular time or overtime. This called for a shootout to decide the winner.

To begin the shootout, Jake Richard knocked in the first shot, followed by Jenčko answering for UMass. Nine missed shots later, Musa captured the sweep for the Minutemen.

In the hard-fought bout, the Huskies began the opening period at a disadvantage. With 18 and a half minutes remaining in the first period, Kerr nailed the puck past the defender for the first goal of the game for UMass.

This lasted until Joey Muldowney danced into space and drilled the puck, deadlocking the meeting 1-1 for UConn. With goal No. 50, Muldowney became the program's leading goal scorer in the Hockey East era.

Closing in on the final four minutes of the second period, Scott earned his first netter of the year from the blue line, putting the Huskies on top 2-1.

To stay in the fight, UMass tied the contest with less than a minute left in the second period. Right off the faceoff, Lucas Olvestad controlled the puck, found space and ripped the puck past traffic and into the net.

Next up, Connecticut will host the New Hampshire Wildcats for their second-to-last meeting of the 2025-2026 season in Storrs. Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. and fans can tune in on ESPN+.